

**WEATHER
FORECAST**
Fair Tonight
and Thursday

LAS VEGAS OPTIC

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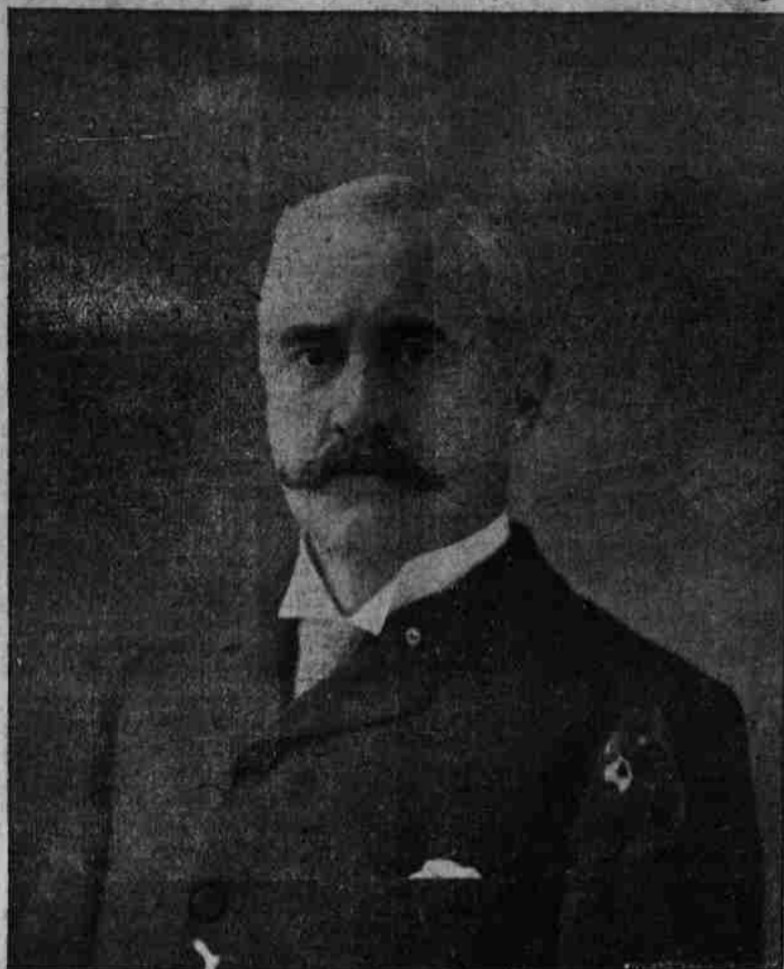
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EAST LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1909

FIVE O'CLOCK EDITION

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM J. MILLS APPOINTED GOVERNOR

THE NEW EXECUTIVE



CHIEF JUSTICE W. J. MILLS

Whose Appointment as Governor of New Mexico Was Announced Today

SELECTION COMES AS A SURPRISE

Tender of the Position Was Entirely Unsolicited on Jurist's Part

APPROVED THROUGHOUT THE TERRITORY

New Executive is Swamped With Congratulatory Telegrams--His Brilliant Record on the Supreme Bench Bespeaks for Him a Successful Administration as Territorial Executive--A Yale Man.

(Associated Press)

Washington, Nov. 24.—At a conference at the White House today, participated in by President Taft, Postmaster General Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior Ballinger and National Committeeman Solomon Luna, of New Mexico, the selection of Chief Justice William J. Mills, of the supreme court of that territory, for governor to succeed George Curry, resigned, was decided upon. A telegram was forwarded to Judge Mills from the White House this morning, tendering him the position, and an answer was received at noon signifying his acceptance.

News Received Here

The first news that Judge Mills had been decided upon for governor of New Mexico, came in a personal telegram this noon to Chas. A. Spiess from Hon. Solomon Luna, national committeeman. This telegram read:

"Chief Justice Mills appointed governor of New Mexico. Congratulations."

The news spread rapidly and this afternoon The Optic received official confirmation of Judge Mills' selection as territorial executive in the foregoing Associated Press dispatch from Washington. Judge Mills was presiding over the territorial district court at the time the message tendering him the governorship was received. He answered, accepting the honor, but his friends did not know what had transpired until Mr. Spiess had made public the message he had received from National Committeeman Luna. Immediately there was a rush made by Judge Mills' friends to congratulate him and by noon he was the busiest man in Las Vegas, acknowledging the congratulations of his friends and answering telegrams which poured in from all parts of the territory and from the east, congratulating him on his appointment and assuring his administration hearty support.

Appointment a Surprise

The telegraphic dispatches which today brought the gratifying news that Chief Justice W. J. Mills, of this city, had been appointed governor to succeed Governor George Curry, whose resignation has been accepted by the president, effective after January 1, 1910, came as a distinct though pleasant surprise. Only yesterday petitions were being circulated on the West side and in East Las Vegas, asking that Judge Mills be re-appointed to the position of chief justice, a position which he has so ably and conscientiously filled for the past twelve years. Petitions to this effect had also been largely signed by citizens of Colfax, Union and Mora counties, which counties together with San Miguel, comprise the Fourth judicial district over which Judge Mills has presided. Late yesterday afternoon it became known that the selection of a candidate to fill the position of governor lay between the Hon. Edward A. Mann of Albuquerque, N. M., and Hon. William J. Mills, of this city. This result proves that the appointment of Judge Mills came entirely unsolicited on his part and was no doubt a personal selection made by President Taft, out of the army of candidates for the position.

A New Mexico Man

In the appointment of Judge Mills, the people of New Mexico have cause to rejoice, for no little apprehension existed, especially during the past few days, for fear an outsider would be named as territorial executive. Judge Mills is a pioneer of the territory, having resided in New Mexico for the past twenty-four years. He came to Las Vegas from New Haven, Conn., in the year 1885, and from 1886 until 1893 engaged in the practice of his profession, that of the law. He then returned to Connecticut, where he served in the legislature of that state both as a representative and a senator.

In January, 1898, President McKinley appointed Judge Mills chief justice of the New Mexico supreme court, to succeed the Hon. Thomas Smith, of Warrenton, Va. He immediately returned to Las Vegas and assumed his duties, which also included the judgeship of the Fourth judicial district. His splendid record during his first term resulted in his re-appointment by President Theodore Roosevelt for a second and then a third term, which expires on January 31, 1910. His conduct on the bench has been such as to win the confidence and esteem of the people throughout the territory. When it became known that he was an applicant for re-appointment to the chief justiceship, petitions urging President Taft to continue him as chief justice were generously signed by people in every town and county in the district.

Judge Mills' administration of the Las Vegas grant has been such that the people wished that he might be continued in his present position until all legal questions pertaining to titles to lands within the exterior boundaries of this vast domain might be finally settled.

A Yale Graduate

Judge Mills is a southerner by birth, having been born January 11, 1849, in Yazoo City, Miss. His early education was in the public schools, after which he became a student at Yale, graduating from the Yale Law school in 1877. He was married January 14, 1885, at West Haven, Conn., to Miss Alice Waddingham. Of this union two children have been born, Wilson W. Mills, at present a student at Yale, and Miss Madeline Mills.

THE RETIRING GOVERNOR



GEORGE CURRY.

Who Has Resigned as Governor of New Mexico.

POPE WILL BE CHIEF JUSTICE

ROSWELL JUDGE IS NAMED TO SUCCEED WILLIAM J. MILLS

IS NOW IN WASHINGTON
SUCCESSFUL APPLICANT HAS BEEN IN NATIONAL CAPITAL SOME TIME

CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT

SERVED ON BENCH IN PHILADELPHIA WHILE TAFT WAS GOVERNOR GENERAL

Washington, Nov. 24.—President Taft today appointed William H. Pope, of Roswell, N. M., an associate justice of the New Mexico supreme court, to succeed William J. Mills, of Las Vegas, that territory, as chief justice of the territorial supreme court.

Judge Pope, has been in Washington some days and has had numerous conferences with the president, of whom he is a close personal friend. He was endorsed by the territorial Republican organization. His headquarters will likely remain at Roswell, where he has been located as district judge of the Sixth judicial district.

The newly appointed chief justice was born June 1, 1870, in Beaufort, S. C., and received his early education in the public schools at Atlanta, Ga. He graduated from the Atlanta high school and later from the University of Georgia at Athens, receiving the degree of A. M. in 1889 and LL.D. in 1890. He was married November 29, 1907, to Miss May Hull, of Athens, that state. He was professor of ancient languages in the University of Georgia, 1889-90, and upon being admitted to the bar in the latter year, located in Santa Fe, N. M., to take up the practice of law. He was a member of the Capitol Rebuilding Commission, from 1895 to 1900, which built the handsome new territorial capitol building. He was commissioner from New Mexico to the Atlanta exposition in 1901, assistant attorney general of New Mexico, 1895 to 1897,

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SIX BURNED TO DEATH IN FIRE

CROWDED NEW YORK TENEMENT HOUSE IS SWEEPED BY FLAMES

IT WAS OVERCROWDED
BUILT FOR FOUR FAMILIES, IT CONTAINED TWICE THAT NUMBER

MANY HURT BY JUMPING

BLAZE GAINED HEADWAY SO RAPIDLY THAT RESCUE WAS IMPOSSIBLE

New York, Nov. 24.—At least six persons were burned to death and ten seriously injured in a fire which swept a tenement house in Haven's place, Brooklyn, before daylight today. Two women, one man and three small children lost their lives and another woman is missing. Others were hurt by jumping from the windows of the burning building, the fire spreading so fast the firemen had not time to get up the ladders before the frantic inmates of the house began jumping.

The tenement was intended for the use of only four families, but was occupied by eight, most of whom had a number of boarders. All were Italians. Instead of sending in an alarm when the fire was discovered the first occupants to be aroused fired revolvers from the windows, which added to the panic.

TWO TOWNS WILL CELEBRATE TONIGHT

Both East and West Las Vegas will join tonight in an enthusiastic celebration in honor of the appointment today of Chief Justice Mills to be governor of New Mexico. A torchlight procession, headed by the Mayflower band, will form at the plaza, at 7:30 o'clock and parade through the two towns, winding up at the home of Judge Mills on Seventh street, where it will serenade the new executive and call upon him for a speech. A big time is promised.

BIG STORM IN NORTH-WEST

OREGON AND WASHINGTON AT THE MERCY OF THE ELEMENTS

RAILROADS AT STANDSTILL
WASHOUTS AND DESTROYED BRIDGES TIE UP ALL TRAFFIC

LOSS WILL BE ENORMOUS

FARMS INUNDATED AND MILLIONS OF FEET OF LUMBER WASHED OUT TO SEA

Portland, Ore., Nov. 24.—A storm that has prevailed throughout the Pacific Northwest the last two days, shows no signs of abating. Another night of heavy rain occurred last night in western Washington and Oregon and a Chinook wind is blowing in the Cascade mountains. High winds also prevail along the coast. The rivers and smaller streams are booming, ranches in the lowlands are badly flooded and railroads are blocked by washouts and destroyed bridges. A number of Great Northern trains are tied up in the mountains with no prospect of relief for several days. A number of passengers reached Seattle late last night on a relief train after they had walked miles over rocks and fallen trees. The Southern Pacific railroad between Portland and San Francisco is blocked by washouts near Grants Pass. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of lumber in the Grays harbor country, have been washed out to sea and lost.

IMPRISONMENT FOLLOWS FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE

New Orleans, La., Nov. 24.—A cable from Panama says that Edgar S. Harris, of Columbus, O., an American commercial traveler who has been touring Central America, declares several Americans are in jail at Managua and other places in Nicaragua. Every American who refused to contribute to President Zelaya's war fund was thrown into prison. Harris says it is unsafe for an American to appear in that section of Nicaragua, controlled by Zelaya.

168 BODIES FOUND IN HEAP

VICTIMS IN ILL-FATED ST. PAUL MINE WERE SUFFOCATED

BLACK DAMP WAS FATAL
FOUGHT DESPERATELY TO KEEP ALIVE UNTIL RESCUERS CAME

MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED

HAD VENTILATING FAN NOT BEEN REVERSED, THEY WOULD HAVE LIVED

Cherry, Ill., Nov. 24.—One hundred and sixty-eight bodies were found early today in the lower slope of the ill-fated St. Paul mine. There are still twenty-one miners to be accounted for.

The bodies found this morning were in a tangled mass, completely blocking the staircase leading from the third slope to the second slope, and were found along the slope where they had dropped in an attempt to reach the stairway. Black damp was the cause of their death. All means of escape had been cut off by falling debris and the men had died as they tried to push through, or as they waited vainly for the rescuers. Death evidently did not come to many for hours or perhaps days. Two rude ventilating fans were affixed to the shaft wall and stairway. The men had turned these by hand in their frantic struggles for air and a hopeless effort to drive back the black damp. The hands of one miner were found firmly gripped about the fan. Pathetic messages of goodbye to wives, children and sweethearts were found scratched on pieces of slate by men as death slowly overtook them.

Many former workers in the mine were furious when it was discovered the men would have been safe from the deadly gas had not the ventilating fan of the mine been reversed shortly after the discovery that the mine was on fire.